

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title insert the following heading and paragraphs:

--RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/DE2004/000670, filed on March 31, 2004.

This patent application claims the priority of German patent application 103 14 525.7 filed March 31, 2003, the disclosure content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.--

Page 1, before the first paragraph, insert the following heading:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, revise the first paragraph as follows:

The invention relates to a method for producing a lighting apparatus ~~in accordance with the preamble of patent claim 1 and to a lighting apparatus in accordance with the preamble of patent claim 13~~ with a polygonal luminous area, particularly a backlighting apparatus for a display.

Page 1, before line 12, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, after line 30, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, revise the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 as follows:

~~The invention is based on the object of providing a method which makes it~~

~~possible to produce~~ One object of the invention is to provide a lighting apparatus which overcomes the cited drawbacks of the prior art. ~~In particular, the aim is to allow the provision of a method for producing~~

Another object of the invention is to provide a lighting apparatus which can be used to illuminate screens with a screen diagonal of over 17" very homogeneously, ~~and which~~

Another object of the present invention is to provide a method that can be used to produce lighting apparatus of different sizes flexibly. ~~The ease of~~

A further object of the present invention is to facilitate production of large-area lighting apparatus ~~is a further object.~~

Page 2, delete the paragraphs beginning at lines 4, 7 and 11 in their entirety.

Page 2, revise the paragraph beginning at line 15 as follows:

~~An inventive~~ These and other objects are attained in accordance with one aspect of the present invention directed to a method for producing a lighting apparatus that involves a polygonal luminous area, particularly a backlighting apparatus for a display, ~~being~~. The luminous area is put together in modular fashion from a plurality of individual polygonal luminous modules.

By combining a plurality of luminous modules of the same or different size it is possible to produce backlighting for a multiplicity of display sizes.

Page 2, revise the paragraph beginning at line 24 as follows:

~~One particularly preferred method~~ approach for producing a lighting apparatus involves a rectangular luminous area being put together in modular fashion from a plurality of individual rectangular luminous modules.

Page 3, revise the paragraph beginning at line 9 as follows:

In one particularly preferred variant of the method, at least some of the plurality of luminous modules has a light input part with light emitting diodes (LEDs). In contrast to a conventional lighting apparatus comprising a single electroluminous panel, the invention can be used to achieve a more homogeneous distribution of the power loss and hence of the resultant heat over the entire lighting apparatus, since the LEDs are arranged not only at the edge of the luminous area but also within the luminous area at the junction between individual luminous modules. The light input part is in a form such that the light beams pass through a certain section, ~~in which beam homogenization takes place~~, within the light input part before entering the luminous module, whose top side is bounded by the light exit area. In this case, the light input part's area is not part of the light exit area, whose size is denoted by the length of its diagonal in the case of the first and second luminous modules.

Page 5, revise the paragraph beginning at line 8 as follows:

In one particularly preferred variant of the method, the length of the diagonal of the first luminous module is 7" and the length of the diagonal of the second luminous module is 5". These two luminous modules and the resultant third and fourth luminous modules can be used to produce lighting apparatus which are suitable for backlighting all current monitor sizes. In this preferred variant, the third luminous module has ~~the~~ length and width dimensions of 5.6" × 3" and the fourth luminous module has ~~the~~ length and width dimensions of 4.2" × 4". In particular, this basic set can be used to produce lighting apparatus for monitors with a screen diagonal of 15, 17 and 19".

Page 7, line 25, insert the following new paragraph:

--Another aspect of the present invention is directed to a lighting apparatus with a polygonal luminous area, particularly a backlighting apparatus for a display. The luminous area is made up in modular fashion from individual polygonal luminous modules.--

Page 7 revise the paragraph beginning at line 26 as follows:

A lighting apparatus based on ~~the invention is designed as revealed in accordance with the inventive method described above.~~ It an embodiment of the invention is made up from a plurality of individual luminous modules comprising a complete basic set or from a single type of luminous modules. The luminous modules need to be put together such that a rectangular luminous area with a length-to-width ratio of 4:3 and an integer diagonal measured in inches is obtained.

Delete the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 in its entirety.

Page 8, before line 4, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 8, revise the paragraph beginning at line 19 as follows:

Figure ~~[[5]]~~ 6 shows a schematic illustration of a cross section through two joined luminous modules.

Page 8, before line 22, insert the following heading:

—DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS—

Page 8, revise the paragraph beginning at line 24 as follows:

This is a lighting apparatus 10 which has a plurality of luminous modules 1 with a diagonal length of 5". By putting together 3×3 luminous modules ~~[[1]]~~ 21 of this size, the result is a lighting apparatus 10 which has a diagonal length of 15". With a conventional electroluminescent panel of this size, it is difficult to achieve homogeneous illumination in the center of the luminous area. The effect achieved by using a plurality of individual smaller luminous modules 1 is that very homogeneous illumination is produced on the entire area of the rectangular luminous area. In this exemplary embodiment, a single type 21 of luminous modules from the set comprising 5", 7" and associated third and fourth luminous modules has been selected from a basic set of luminous modules.

Page 10, revise the paragraph beginning at line 15 as follows:

This is a luminous module 1 which can be produced in various sizes and which is equipped with LEDs which input light into the luminous module 1 at an end face of the light input part 3. ~~In the light input part 3, the light emitted by the LEDs 2 is homogenized before the radiation enters the luminous body 9.~~

Page 10, revise the paragraph beginning at line 22 as follows:

The tapering cross section of the luminous body 9 ensures that light emerges over the entire light exit area because the light from the LEDs impinges on the backside of the luminous body which is at an angle to the front side. As a result, the light is bent to the front side homogeneously over the width of the lighting apparatus.

Revise the paragraph bridging pages 11 and 12 as follows:

The invention is not limited by the description with reference to the exemplary embodiments. Rather, the invention covers any new feature and any combination of features, which includes any combination of features in the patent claims, in particular, even if this feature or this combination itself is not explicitly indicated in the patent claims or exemplary embodiments. ~~The content of the patent application DE 103 14 525.7, whose priority is claimed, is hereby incorporated into the description by way of reference.~~

Page 13, after the last paragraph, add the following new paragraph:

The scope of protection of the invention is not limited to the examples given hereinabove. The invention is embodied in each novel characteristic and each combination of characteristics, which includes every combination of any features which are stated in the claims, even if this combination of features is not explicitly stated in the claims.